

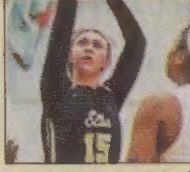
INSIDE

Stokes - Lang
engagement
announced



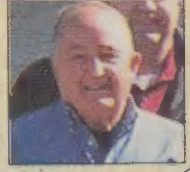
INSIDE

Elba Lady
Tigers fall in
sub-region play



INSIDE

McCollough
receives honor
at Stanhope
Elmore



The Elba Clipper

Volume 124, Number 40 50 Cents Elba, Alabama Thursday, February 25, 2021 1 Section, 8 Pages Plus 1 Adv Insert

Coffee County Sheriff's Office arrests two in Car City arson from January

by Linda Hodge, Editor

The Coffee County Sheriff's Office held a press conference Thursday morning, Feb. 18, announcing two arrests in the Car City arson from January 12, 2021.

The auto sales business is located at 650 U.S. Hwy 231, Brundidge, Ala.; however, it is located in Coffee County. Therefore, the initial investigative agency on this alleged arson was the Coffee County Sheriff's Office.

Coffee County Chief Deputy R.W. Whitworth said the investigation revealed incident initially began Monday, Jan. 11, when a vehicle was reported stolen from Car City, and deputies with the Coffee County Sheriff's Office took a report on that stolen vehicle. Then, around 4 a.m. Tuesday morning, Jan. 12, a call came in reporting a fire at Car City with multiple buildings on fire.

Whitworth said two mechanic shops and an office were found burning, along with multiple vehicles at the business. He said the office contained vehicle titles and other items necessary for operating a business.



Charles Jones

"Nine fire departments responded to the scene," Whitworth said. "They did a fantastic job containing the fire."

As the smoke settled, Whitworth said Coffee County Sheriff's Office investigators teamed up with the Alabama Fire Marshal's Office, ATF, Pike County Sheriff's Office, Dale County Sheriff's Office, Brundidge Police, ALEA, and other agencies to establish a crime scene and begin the investigation into the alleged arson.

After the fire, Whitworth said officers discovered that another vehicle in addition to the one reported stolen on Jan. 11th also had been taken from Car City. He said it had not been realized that a second vehicle was



Dezarae Wiggins

missing until after the fire. Alabama State Fire Marshal Scott Pilgreen said his office received a request from Coffee County to come in and help investigate this crime.

"All these agencies involved...their collaborative effort, it take an effort like that with everyone coming together to get where we are today," Pilgreen said.

Whitworth said it was with great fortune that the details all came together, and led to the arrest of two suspects on Tuesday, Feb. 16, regarding the Car City arson.

He said Charles Jones, age 45, of Clio, Ala., was arrested and charged with two counts of arson second

See ARSON, Page 4



Tawanna Thomas (left) accepts the keys to her new home, located at 537 Adkinson Street in Elba, from Habitat for Humanity of Coffee County volunteer Eugene Goolsby. A dedication ceremony was held Sunday afternoon, Feb. 21, at the home signifying it being ready for Thomas and her two children, Kentana and Kendre, to move in and begin making new memories there. Also pictured is Charlene Goolsby.

Coffee County Habitat for Humanity dedicates new home in Elba in memory of Paul Morrow

by Linda Hodge, Editor

Tawanna Thomas of Elba received the keys to her new home Sunday, Feb. 21, as Habitat for Humanity of Coffee County, Alabama held a dedication ceremony for the Thomas family.

The new Habitat home is located at 537 Adkinson Street in Elba. Ms. Thomas and her two children, Kentana and Kendre, are the proud recipients.

"I want to say thank you for coming out today," Thomas said Sunday during the ceremony. "This has been a long journey...a stressful journey, but through it all I have made it...me and my kids."

She added that she was overjoyed to be selected as the recipient of the home, and she said she could not thank God enough.

Coffee County Habitat board members Charlene

Goolsby noted that it truly had been a long journey for the Thomas family. She said Thomas' application was turned in on Aug. 15, 2018, and she was approved to be the recipient in June 2019. A groundbreaking for the construction of the home was held in June 2020.

Then, Goolsby said the obstacles began creating havoc, including the COVID-19 pandemic.

"It has taken us nine months to finish this house," Goolsby said.

She said it normally takes around six months for a Habitat home to be built. She thanked Thomas for her patience throughout the process.

During Sunday's ceremony, it was noted that the sod still needed to be put down for the yard, and the driveway still needed to be poured; however, the home

was ready for its family to move in and begin enjoying it.

This home also holds special meaning to another Elba family as it is being dedicated in the memory of the late Paul Morrow. Several members of the Morrow family were in attendance Sunday for the dedication ceremony.

"This house is a special house," said Habitat board member Daniel Stephens. "It is going to be dedicated to the memory of a great guy, Mr. Paul Morrow."

He said Morrow was a special guy, and his door was always open to others.

"He was a committed man, a disciple of the Lord, a good son, husband, father, grandfather, friend, and that list goes on and on," Stephens said. "[Paul Morrow] loved unconditionally."

Stephens said his and Morrow's walk with Habitat began in 1998 when a group in Elba began discussing the idea of starting a Habitat for Humanity program. He said

See HABITAT, Page 5



ELBA FD RESPONDS TO HOUSE FIRE...Members of the Elba Volunteer Fire Department responded Tuesday morning, Feb. 23, to a house fire on Morrow Street in Elba. Upon arrival on scene, firefighters found a heavy presence of smoke coming from the home. They quickly went to work bringing the situation under control. The photo shows the firemen entered from the front door in their attack on the fire. No injuries were reported as a result of this house fire.

Elba man arrested for DUI and drugs

Coffee County Jail records showed that Elba Police arrested Jovon Smedley, age 40, of Elba on Sunday, Feb. 21, and he was booked into the jail at 11:51 p.m.

Charges related to Smedley's arrest included: possession of a controlled substance, driving under the influence [alcohol], and a misdemeanor charge of drug paraphernalia possession.

The jail records further



Jovon Smedley

showed that Smedley was released on bond Monday afternoon, Feb. 22nd.

Area Happenings

THE ELBA LIONS CLUB ANNUAL PANCAKE BREAKFAST will be held Saturday, March 6, from 6-10 a.m. at the National Security Conference Center. This year, the breakfast will be for takeout plates only! A \$5 donation is requested for each plate.

THE ELBA CITY COUNCIL AND ELBA WATER AND ELECTRIC BOARD WILL HOLD a joint workshop Monday evening, March 1, at 5:30 p.m. at Elba City Hall.

THE NEW BROCKTON TOWN COUNCIL will hold its monthly meeting Monday, March 1, at 6 p.m.



Sheriff Ben Moates

Robert Liljeberg, Orthopedic Surgeon and Mako SmartRobotics

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EDITORIAL

BRAINSTORMS

With Ferrin Cox

"Much has been given us, and much will rightfully be expected from us. We have duties to others and duties to ourselves; and we can shirk neither." - Theodore Roosevelt, Presidential Inauguration, 1905

As many of our readers already know we lost our life partner of 57 years last week when wife Heddy died after an extended battle with that life destroying thing called Alzheimer's. My heart has been gladdened by the many warm and loving comments from many of those who knew her.

It is a given that there is no cure and that death is the ultimate result of that relentless attack of the disease on the brain. However, when death is staring you in the face in those last days and hours of life, alarm bells ring and every other emotion in your body reacts. You are not ready to let them go but at the same time know you have no choice. Also, if you knew Heddy as we knew her, you would know without a doubt that she had no desire to remain on earth under the condition her mind and by extension, her body, was in. Many "what if" discussions we had together during our many years of marriage and her formal 20-year-old "Living Will" made it crystal clear that she believed there were things far worse than death.

I am sad over her illness and death but not bitter. Had she dropped dead several years ago I would have been filled with guilt. Guilt that I had not always shown my love and appreciation for her. With the Alzheimer's dictating her needs, I am grateful to have been able to demonstrate that love, appreciation and loyalty to, and for her. While she probably didn't fully understand what was happening, I did and am grateful for the opportunity to make her last years less traumatic. Yet that did not equal her years of loyal, dedicated contributions to our lives.

Her loyal devotion was jokingly displayed with her timing on having children. The first one's pending arrival was announced to the new dad on Tuesday night after the paper layout was completed and she was born Wednesday afternoon after the paper was printed. The same game plan was followed with the middle child, arriving only after the paper went "to bed". Only the youngest son altered the master plan, arriving with the aid of medical technology on Valentine's Day right in the middle of the (then) all-important annual meeting of the Coffee County Democratic Committee and their launching of election activities.

She seemed to maintain that sensitivity to obligations by actually waiting to die until family members had returned home and just hours after the weekly paper was in the mail. We had three significant understandings as our life moved on. Number One was that if I ever had the urge to hit her, we had been together one day too long - and that urge never came close to happening. Number Two was if one of us made a decision with/or about the children the other would not countermand that decision - and we each honored this. Number Three was that there could only be one 'boss' at the newspaper and we agreed that I was the newspaper guy - and that never changed or was challenged yet she kept me from making a fool of myself more than once. Our marriage was a great one in our opinion and we grew much closer (or had more time to enjoy our closeness) as a couple after the children all entered adulthood. When the Alzheimer's became obvious, we chose for her to stay at home if at all possible and that happened. At first nothing else was considered by either of us, later nothing else was acceptable for me but to be her full-time caregiver, remembering my granddaddy's words "until death do us part" as he was performing the wedding. That included patience during those last weeks with the very slow process of placing small bits of food in her mouth at mealtimes and encouraging her to chew. Each of us took that wedding vow to mean what it said, and it matched our desires to a "T". I continued working, and with some adjustments to schedules over the last few years, was able to have her travel with me virtually all of the time, right up to the end. There was no issue with her giving up the freedom afforded with driving her car. One day she walked in, dropped her car keys on the desk and announced her driving days were over - and they were. She never drove her car again, nor indicated a desire to do so.

The memory of so many heartwarming emotions and married life events go on and on and will remain in our heart and mind until death or aging robs us of them. To all of you who have been patient with us through this process, expressed your condolences, or shared your own memories of Heddy's big smile and unwavering kindness, our children and I say thanks.

God Bless

Be Safe, Please wear your mask, Wash you hands - again, and Social Distance when possible.

Notice:

During the Elba City Council meeting held Monday evening, Mayor Tom Maddox said a grand opening and ribbon cutting would be held Thursday, March 4, at 2 p.m. for Just Fashion - a new retail business that has opened in downtown Elba on Davis Street.

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Coffee County & Surrounding Counties - \$21 per year
6 Months - \$11, including city & state tax
Alabama Counties - \$24 per year - including tax
6 months - \$13
Outside Alabama - \$27 per year - 6 months - \$15

by Michael J. Brooks

Some political pundits were quick to criticize a newly-elected U.S. senator who said in an interview the three branches of government are the "House, the Senate and the executive." OK, so his words weren't precise. Does this define the man? I hope not since all of us make verbal gaffes from time-to-time.

I just finished a new biography of President Carter. Author Jonathan Alter reminded readers of Carter's intended tribute to the late Sen. Hubert Humphrey in

the president's renomination convention in 1980. By mistake, Carter called him the fictional "Hubert Horatio Hornblower." Carter said later the negative reporting he received might as well have labeled him the Disney character "Goofy." Carter is a great man and shouldn't be defined by a single gaffe.

A person's life isn't measured by occasional tongue flubs. I want to believe this since I've made my share. One issue with speaking in churches and classrooms as many of us do is there's no "cutting room floor" where

edits can be made. Though many of our churches have been broadcasting during Covid, most of us are not ready for prime-time TV! If we were, we could edit out the verbal gaffes, sneezes and jokes that didn't work.

Consider the disciple whom many call their favorite, Simon Peter. Do you remember the time he stood in the courtyard, warming by the fire and denied he even knew the now-arrested Jesus of Nazareth? Preachers a generation ago used to talk about Peter "warming by the devil's fire." And he was. When his denials fell flat, he cursed like the sailor he was to definitively demonstrate that he didn't follow Jesus.

But fortunately, Peter repented. And he found forgiveness. On the Day of Pentecost he took renewed strength and served Christ faithfully until the day Nero gave the order of execution.

To Peter, Jesus gave the "keys of the kingdom." The keeper of the kingdom was

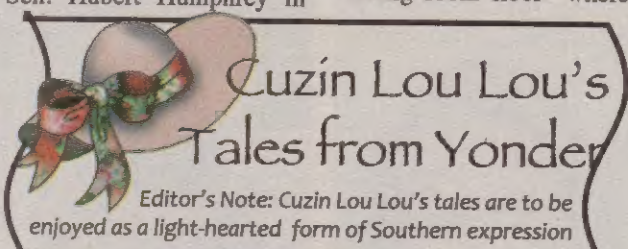
there at momentous times. He was there when the Holy Spirit was given to the church, when the Holy Spirit was given to Samaritans and when the Holy Spirit was given to gentiles. He was there when the church finally "got it" and welcomed all nations to Christ.

Tradition says Peter became the pastor of the church in Jerusalem and was given opportunity to recant his faith under threat of death. He refused to deny Jesus again, and was sentenced to crucifixion. Tradition further records he felt unworthy to die as Jesus did, and requested he be crucified head down.

Christian history would be vastly different if we judged Peter the rest of his life by words spoken in haste. He found grace and another opportunity to serve.

So can we all.

Reflections is a weekly devotional column written by Michael J. Brooks, pastor of the Silaria Baptist Church in Alabaster, Ala.



Cuzin Lou Lou heard of a couple of different stories lately where those 'ole mean scammers were working overtime to try and convince someone to give out personal information...fortunately, the good guys were too smart to fall victim. This time, at least.

Scammers are nothing new. They've been trying to find ways to cheat someone out of his/her stuff for longer than most of us are old. Every time one scam runs its course...another is already beginning to target people.

Lou Lou even found herself in a situation recently where some scammer, thief, or whatever you want to call 'em tried to use her debit card number to make some transactions. Fortunately, the bank's fraud system caught on to these erroneous transactions in time to prevent them from going through, but that did not keep Lou Lou from expressing some choice words for the culprits.

Lou Lou shares this information today for the purpose of encouraging her readers to not allow a scammer to take you to the cleaners. If you receive a phone call from someone asking for personal information [i.e. bank account info, social security number, etc.] do not provide that info over the telephone unless you know exactly with whom you are speaking. Most of the time, if it is a legit call from a legit organization, the person calling will never ask for that kind of info over the telephone in the first place.

If the scammer threatens legal action or says you are going to jail if you do not do as they say... call their bluff. Tell them to bring it on! Then, you make contact with the organization in which that have said will "come get you" and ask if that was correct information.

The best way to handle it though...hang up on them! Until next time...God Bless and Keep Smiling!

What really puts a burr under Lou Lou's saddle, though, is when she gets a report from an elderly person that has become prey

Elba Police Report

The Elba Police Department, between Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2021, and Monday, Feb. 22, 2021, conducted the following activity:

Tuesday, Feb. 16 - Suspicious circumstances reported at 1495 Reese Ave (2:43 a.m.); Animal complaint reported at 490 Hwy 203 (8:16 a.m.); Suspicious person reported on Flats Rd (5:35 p.m.); Assault reported at 1152 Neil Grantham Dr (5:50 p.m.); Reckless driver reported on Reynolds Ave (6:35 p.m.); Traffic accident reported at 558 Davis St E (6:39 p.m.). There were five traffic stops recorded on this date resulting in four verbal warnings and one written warning.

Wednesday, Feb. 17 - Animal complaint reported at 631 County Rd 368 (11:52 a.m.); Animal complaint reported at 827 Washington Ave (1:46 p.m.); Burglary reported at 435 Newton St (2:19 p.m.); Reckless driver reported on Reynolds Ave (7:17 p.m.); Prowler reported on Deal St (10:34 p.m.). There were four traffic stops recorded on this date resulting in three verbal warnings and one written warning.

Thursday, Feb. 18 - Burglary reported at 1495 Reese Ave - was a false alarm (2:01 a.m.); Animal complaint reported at 2885 Taylor Mill Rd - animal impounded (12:40 p.m.); Shoplifter reported at 638

Claxton Ave N (1:27 p.m.); Harassing communications reported at 595 Collier Circle (2:26 p.m.); Traffic accident reported at 990 Hwy 203 (4:38 p.m.); Elba Police rendered assistance to a citizen at 1950 Reese Ave (6:00 p.m.); Reckless Driver reported on E Davis St (8:13 p.m.). There were six traffic stops recorded on this date resulting in three verbal warnings, two written warnings, and one citation.

Friday, Feb. 19 - Assault reported at 615 Jackson Ave (7:15 p.m.); Debris in roadway reported at Hwy 84 and Lindsey St (9:32 p.m.). There were five traffic stops recorded on this date resulting in four verbal warnings and one report completed.

Saturday, Feb. 20 - Suspicious circumstances reported at 335 Brunson Circle (2:05 a.m.); Prowler reported at 994 Sunset Blvd (3:44 a.m.); Reckless driver reported on Martin Luther King Dr (1:53 p.m.); Harassment reported to Elba Police (4:16 p.m.); Verbal altercation reported at 595 Collier Circle (5:02 p.m.); Animal complaint reported at 1019 Sunset Blvd - an arrest was made (5:38 p.m.); Suspicious vehicle reported on Wayne St (6:09 p.m.); Suspicious person reported on Hwy 84 - officers rendered assistance (9:24 p.m.). There were seven traffic stops recorded on this date resulting in four verbal warnings, two written warnings and one citation issued.

Sunday, Feb. 21 - Criminal mischief reported at 132 Plant Ave (9:54 a.m.); Suspicious vehicle reported at 1883 Hickman Ave - officers made an investigative stop (8:56 p.m.). There were seven traffic stops recorded on this date resulting in one advice given, two citations issued, two written warnings, and two reports completed.

Monday, Feb. 22 - Domestic complaint reported at 406 Adkinson Ave (1:20 a.m.); Suspicious circumstances reported at 401 Adkinson Ave (4:56 a.m.); Suspicious circumstances reported at 401 Adkinson Ave (5:47 a.m.); Suspicious circumstances reported at 1578 Caroline St (8:26 a.m.); Animal complaint reported at 1105 Guyton St (11:36 a.m.); Intoxicated driver reported on Hwy 125 (5:21 p.m.); Domestic complaint reported at 878 Claxton Ave N (6:38 p.m.); Trespassing reported at 595 Collier St (7:23 p.m.); Suspicious vehicle reported on Claxton Ave N (11:00 p.m.). There were eight traffic stops recorded on this date resulting in four written warnings, and four verbal warnings.

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Obituaries

Death notices updated regularly on our website at <www.elba-clipper.com>

MAVIS BOWDEN CHAPPELL

Ms. Mavis Bowden Chappell, age 80, of Elba, Ala., died Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2021, at her home in Elba, Ala.

Funeral services were held Feb. 19, 2021 from the chapel of Hayes Funeral Home with Rev. Donnie Marler officiating. Burial services followed in the Evergreen Cemetery with Hayes Funeral Home directing.

Mrs. Chappell was preceded in death by her father, Forest Hunter Bowden; mother, Etta Florene Bowden; husband, Raymond Doyle Chappell; son, Doyle LaWayne Chappell; brothers, Hayward Preston Bowden, and Gerald Lee Bowden, and sister, Pauline Bowden Qualls.

Survivors include her sons: Raymond Lavon (Rhonda) Chappell, Elba, Jason Lee (Sharon) Burch, Troy, Ala.; grandsons: Robbie (Caitlin) Chappell, and Kendall Lavon (Ashley) Chappell, both of Elba; granddaughter: JaiLeigh Burch, Millbrook, Ala.; great-grandsons: Michael Robert Chappell, and David Ray Chappell, both of Elba; brother: Carlton "Buddy" (Christine) Bowden, Elba; sister: Clevis Ann Ammons, Elba; along with numerous nieces and nephews.

HEDDY JOHNSON COX

Heddy Johnson Cox, age 77, of Elba, died Wednesday, February 17, 2021, at her home.

She was born and reared in Mobile, Ala., and graduated from Florala High School. It was in Florala that she met her husband, Ferrin Cox, who courted her over the soda fountain at Moody Drug where she worked until their marriage on August 23, 1963.

As a young couple, the Coxes moved to Elba in 1964 where he took the helm of The Elba Clipper. After they purchased the business in 1971, she worked by his side daily in whatever role was needed as long as her health permitted.

The Coxes are members of Elba First United Methodist Church, where "Mrs. Heddy" took great joy in working in the nursery for many years. For decades, they have shared the ups and downs of life with members of the Pairs and Spares Sunday School class, who are loved and appreciated as extended family.

In addition to her husband of more than 57 years, Mrs. Cox is survived by her children, Michele (Tom) Gerlach, of Andalusia, Chris (Penny) Cox, of Opelika, and Eric (Karen) Cox of Excel; her sister, Theresa Johnson Adams of Destin; her grandchildren, Sarah and Christopher Cox of Opelika; step-grandchildren and great-grandchildren, Kevin, Ann, Kate and Carson Gerlach, Anthony, Hillary, Gage and Emmy Brantley, Cody Crutchfield; several sisters-and brothers-in-law, and a host of nieces and nephews.

The family also acknowledges with appreciation the many employees and associates of The Elba Clipper and The Graceville News, past and present, whom they also consider part of their extended family.

Mrs. Cox was preceded in death by her parents, Houston and Nellie Johnson, and two siblings, Mack and Clifford Johnson.

Because of the COVID pandemic, private family services were held with Steve Reneau, pastor of First United Methodist Church, officiating. Internment was in Evergreen Cemetery. Hayes Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

The family requests that in lieu of flowers, contributions be made to the First United Methodist Church, 503 Davis St., Elba, AL 36323; the Alzheimer's Association, 225 N. Michigan Ave., Fl. 17, Chicago, IL 60601 or act.alz.org; or the charity of one's choice.

CATHERINE BRUNSON LUENING

Mrs. Catherine Brunson Luening, age 98, born in Samson, Ala. and raised in Elba, Ala., died peacefully in her sleep Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2021, at her Manhattan, NY apartment.

The oldest of four sisters, Catherine was

first homeschooled by her mother, Leola Johnson, during the days of the Great Depression, while her father, John Franklin Brunson Jr., was struggling to keep his local bank in business. At an early age, Catherine was introduced to music lessons when her parents traded their cow's milk for music instruction. In her own words: "A bargain was struck, and eight years later, I played Beethoven's 'Moonlight Sonata' in my senior recital, valedictorian of my graduating class. I was sent to Judson College." With her heart set on a music career, she followed her younger sister, Eugenia, to New York in 1944, eventually enrolled at the Juilliard School for a summer, and later at the Graduate School of Music at Columbia University, earning a Master's degree in music. It was at Columbia University that she met her husband, renowned composer Otto Luening. They married in 1959.

At the time, Catherine was teaching music at Packer Collegiate; in 1963, she began her career as music teacher at the Spence School in Manhattan. At Spence, Catherine founded the instrumental music department and taught piano - from the very rudiments to advanced levels - to generations of schoolgirls of all grades.

Her husband Otto died in 1996, aged 96. Catherine continued to tirelessly promote her husband's music and attend concerts and proceeded to teach and lead the music program at Spence until declining health forced her to retire in 2018, at age 96.

Mrs. Luening's ashes will be interred in the Brunson family grave at the Evergreen Cemetery in Elba at a date to be determined. The funeral ceremony will be announced

in The Elba Clipper.

Mrs. Luening is survived by the descendants of her three deceased sisters, Eugenia Day, Eleanor Sparks and Judith Bullock; her nephews, John Baldwin Day, Peter Fairfield Day, William David Sparks and John Owen Sparks; her niece, Eleanor Bullock McGuff; and their children and grandchildren.

JAMES HASTON BLAIR

Mr. James Haston Blair, age 75, of Elba, Ala., died Saturday, Feb. 20, 2021, at Flowers Hospital in Dothan, Ala.

James was born Feb. 26, 1945 in Elba, where he remained for his entire life. One of his greatest joys was his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

James' family will always remember his strength and his fighting spirit, as he stood against the increasing challenges of a progression of lung disease. While in the hospital, his doctor asked him what he expected or hoped for in his recovery. James responded, "All I have wanted was to see my children come to know the Lord Jesus Christ as their Savior, and I've seen that. So, I am good with whatever happens."

Graveside services were held Feb. 23, 2021 from Whitewater Baptist Church Cemetery with Rev. Bruce Williams officiating. Hayes Funeral Home directed the services.

James is preceded in death by his parents, Haston and Fleetie Blair, two sisters and three brothers.

Survivors include his wife: Linda Padgett Blair, Elba; son: Dean (Melonee) Blair, Enterprise, Ala.; daughters: Debbie (John) Osburn, Milton, Fla., and Delisa (Shane) Smith, Ozark, Ala.; stepsons: Larry Douglas (Regina) Greer Jr., Coffee Springs, Ala., and David Shane (Beverley) Greer, Opp, Ala.; grandsons: Brian (Megan) Blair, Tuscaloosa, Ala., and Gavin Smith, Ozark; granddaughters: Lauren Nykanen (Cody Hardy), Bryan, Texas, Emily (Hunter) Peaden, Milton, Kaitlyn Parrish, and Daisy Smith, both of Ozark; step granddaughters: Ashley Greer, Coffee Springs, Ala., Victoria Greer, Enterprise, and Kourtnee (Shane) Holcomb, Opp, Ala.; step grandsons: Dalton Grider, Opp, and Stewart Greer, Coffee Springs; great-grandsons: Carson Blair and Jackson Blair, both of Tuscaloosa; great-granddaughter: Londyn Peaden, Milton; step great-granddaughters: Bryar Waltham, Enterprise, and Abbi Reberio, Coffee Springs.

BENJAMIN MARTIN MOATES

Mr. Benjamin Martin Moates, age 67, died Thursday, Feb. 18, 2021, at Southeast Health in Dothan, Ala., from complications of COVID-19.

Ben was a 1972 graduate of Enterprise High School and attended Enterprise State Junior College. He was a graduate of the State of Alabama Law Enforcement Academy. Before Ben became a law enforcement volunteer and professional, he farmed with his father and brother on Martin Moates Farms, Enterprise. His law enforcement career began as a volunteer under Sheriff Brice Paul and progressed throughout the years culminating in his successful terms as Sheriff of Coffee County for 12 years.

He was an active member of Wesley Chapel United Methodist Church, a volunteer firefighter with Tri-Communities Fire Department and was involved with Iron Warrior Motorcycle Club. He participated monthly in the Methodist Food Bank distribution and was "on call" for his 98-year-old Aunt Tommye.

Funeral services were held Feb. 22, 2021 at Searcy Funeral Home and Crematory Chapel with Pastor Bill Kidwell and Brother Larry Harrison officiating. A private burial was held at Meadowlawn Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in his memory to: Wesley Chapel Building Fund, 2331 County Road 56, Enterprise, AL 36330.

Ben was preceded in death by his parents, Martin and Jeanette Moates; and his sister, Emily Sawyer. Survivors include his wife: Jill Carmichael Moates; his step-daughters: Jana Emfinger and Jenna Deal; step-granddaughters: Lailyn Medley and Kaylee Crook; his sister: Rebecca (Becky) Cain (Dennis); his brother: David Moates (Joan); his aunt: Tommye Byrd; and several nieces and nephews.

CHRISTOPHER LAMAR HELMS

Mr. Christopher Lamar (Chris) Helms, age 54, of Colquitt, Ga., died Saturday, Feb. 20, 2021, at Phoebe Putney Hospital, Albany, Ga.

A graveside service was held Feb. 23, 2021 in Harmony Cemetery, Colquitt, with Pastor Cory Thomas officiating. Services were directed by Cox Funeral Home of Bainbridge, Ga.

Chris was born Jan. 8, 1967 in Bainbridge. His parents, Howard Lamar Helms and Myrtice Wynette Culverson Helms Powell, preceded him in death. Chris was fortunate to spend the last portion of his life with his wife, Sharon Farris Helms (formerly of Elba, Ala.).

Survivors include

his wife: Sharon Farris Helms, Colquitt; children: Wesley Helms and Braxton Helms, Colquitt, Savanna Blackmon (Jason), Jack, Ala., and Whitney Creel (Cory), Chancellor, Ala.; his dad: James Wesley Powell, Colquitt; sister: Beth Zotyka (Chuck),

Bainbridge; brothers: Hayward Morris (Kim), Southside, Ala., and Dale Powell (Dana), Colquitt; grandchildren: Bently Stokes, Lillie Stokes, Zander Creel, Layton Downing, and James Downing; and a host of nieces and nephews.

In report to county commissioners

Coffee County EMA director says COVID-19 numbers getting better

by Linda Hodge, Editor

During the Coffee County Commission meeting held Monday, Feb. 22, in New Brockton, EMA director James Brown said numbers regarding COVID-19 are fortunately getting better.

However, he encouraged citizens to not get complacent even though the number of cases are declining locally and statewide, and he further encouraged getting the COVID vaccine.

Statewide, Brown said new cases were down to about a quarter of what they were a month ago. He said that is very encouraging.

As for Coffee County, he said 132 new cases were gained in the last two week - averaging about nine per day. About a month ago, he said the county was gaining an average of 55 new COVID cases per day.

"With the numbers dropping, we don't want people to become complacent," Brown said. "Get the vaccine if you can."

He followed this by saying the county had a 1.8 percent death rate from the COVID virus. Looking at nine new cases per day, he said that equates to about one death per week.

"That is still too many to me," Brown said.

He did note, however, that the death rate seemingly had been on the decline

over the past week or so too. He said he hoped that would continue.

"Hospitals also are looking better," Brown said. "About 7.5 percent of [current] hospitalizations are COVID-related. That is really coming down from where it was about a month ago, and we are happy to see that."

Also, as of Monday morning, Brown said it appeared about 14.5 percent of the county's population had received at least the first dose of the COVID vaccine. He added that officials were hopeful for the Johnson and Johnson vaccine to get FDA approval real soon allowing for more vaccine availability.

In other news from the Coffee County Commission, commissioners approved the reappointments of James Liptrot and Dan Stokes to the Coffee County Water Authority Board during Monday's meeting. These are 6-year terms set to expire March 1, 2027.

The next Coffee County Commission meeting will be Monday, March 8, at 9 a.m. in the community room of the county complex in New Brockton.



Card of Thanks

The Family of Mavis Bowden Chappell

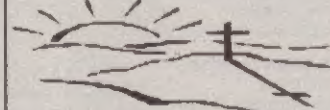
would like to thank everyone for their compassion shown unto us during this difficult time. Thanks for the calls, texts, food, flowers, and visits.

We appreciate all of your thoughts and prayers.

Family of Mavis Bowden Chappell

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Do I Have to Use a Funeral Home to Be Buried in a Cemetery?

Memorializing and ultimately burying a deceased relative can be an emotionally intensive process. As you grieve, the last thing you want is to feel overwhelmed by practical and logistical concerns. That's the primary reason why most individuals choose to coordinate memorial and burial services through a local funeral home. Simply put, your funeral director can handle the practicalities on your behalf, giving you the time and space you need to mourn and to spend time with your family members.

Indeed, your funeral director will handle logistical issues you may not have even thought of, and shouldn't have to - issues like transporting your loved one, ensuring the gravesite is ready for the burial, coordinating with the cemetery owner, and more. As you think about working with a funeral director, consider all of these pragmatic concerns that can effectively be taken off your plate.

Something else to consider is that funeral homes are required by the FTC to provide you with a list of prices for each separate service - meaning you have the right to choose which funeral services you want and which ones you don't. As such, you can decide to conduct a vigil or graveside service yourself, but still enlist a funeral home to help with moving the body, ensuring the proper casket, etc.

If you have any questions about the specific ways in which a funeral home can help you, simply reach out to your local funeral director today; let them know your wishes and discover some of the ways they can work with you to meet those wishes.

If you would like a free funeral decisions guide, please email me at
hayesfh@hayesfuneralhome.net

431 East Davis Elba, Alabama 36323 (334) 897-2225

CHURCH and COMMUNITY

PASTOR'S CORNER

by Dwight Johnson, Lead Pastor
Elba First Assembly of God • 1320 Highland Drive

One thing that is easy to do in Bible study is to read over familiar passages and not reflect on how they apply to our lives. One example is Genesis 1:1 - "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth." We know that verse well. After all, it is the first verse in the Bible; the introduction to a story that we've heard and read for years. But, it happened so long ago. What could it mean to us today? Let's take a look.

"In the beginning." There have been many beginnings of many things for many people. But, this wasn't just a beginning - this was THE beginning, the beginning of all beginnings! In college I learned about the Literal (24 hour) Day theory of creation, the Day Age theory, the Revelation Day theory, etc. Regardless of how or when it happened, at first glance, this "beginning" sometimes doesn't seem to have a great deal of personal or contemporary relevance. But it teaches something that we need to know: God is a God of new beginnings. If he could be present and active in this big beginning, we can be confident that he can create new beginnings for us. God gives fresh starts, second chances, new life, and new hope. He offers you and I new beginnings.

"God." The earth "was without form, and void." But, the beginning didn't happen in a void. God was there. That is why things began to take shape, and make sense. Even when things seem crazy in our lives, and nothing has structure or form, when God steps in, things begin to change. Order begins, and from order comes the framework of God's creative purpose, which leads us to the next key word.

"Created." It is hard to understand how God created so much out of nothing, but he did. Hebrews 11:3 tells us "... what we now see did not come from anything that can be seen." For us, this simply means that God doesn't need much of anything to do a lot of things. So, we give him what little we have. We give him our failures and messes. He takes them, the little and the ugly, and creates something big and beautiful. When his power, his creativity, and his love combine, it is amazing to see what he can do.

So, the seemingly generic first verse of the Bible says an awful lot. It speaks loudly, clearly, and with encouragement. It speaks to us. Let it speak to you.

**** Pastor Dwight Johnson of Elba First Assembly of God has been the Pastor's Corner author each week for the month of February. In March, the articles will come from Pastor Jon Isaacs of Grace Fellowship Church.**

APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC HOUSING AND SECTION 8

ELBA
Housing Authority

1207 North Claxton Avenue • Elba, AL 36323
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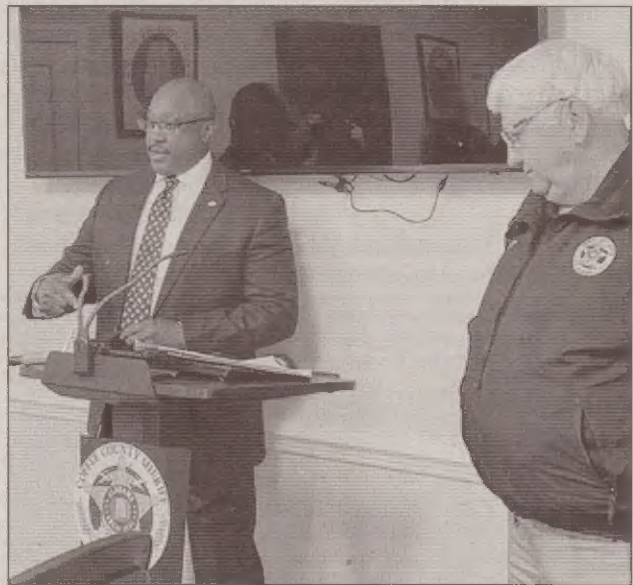
The Elba Housing Authority does not discriminate because of race, color, national origin, sex, perceived sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, religion, familial status, or disability. The Elba Housing Authority has handicapped accessible units.

New Glorious COGIC plans to hold Clothes Closet event on Feb. 27th

New Glorious COGIC Outreach Ministries invites citizens to join them at a free Clothes Closet event Saturday, Feb. 27, from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m.

All clothes will be given away free on a first come, first serve basis. There will be no holds.

The church is located at 314 County Road 263, Elba.



Louis Franklin Sr., U.S. Attorney for the Middle District of Alabama speaks at the press conference held last Thursday morning at the Coffee County Sheriff's Office regarding arrests made in the Car City fire from on Jan. 12, 2021. Also pictured is Coffee County Chief Deputy R.W. Whitworth.

ARSON (Continued from Page One)

degree - each county carrying a \$60,000 bond, and two counts of theft of property first degree - each count carrying a \$60,000 bond. Also, Dezarae Wiggins, age 31, of Clio, Ala., was arrested and charged with two counts of arson second degree - each count carrying a \$60,000 bond, and one count of theft of property - carrying a \$60,000 bond.

Both suspects were booked into the Coffee County Jail at 5:46 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 16 on these charges, and Whitworth said more arrests could come at a later date as the investigation continues.

Whitworth said at least \$750,000 worth of damage resulted to Car City property as a result of this fire/arson, if not more than that.

Jennifer Redden Conway, resident agent in charge of the ATF Montgomery Field Office, said her office provided a certified state fire investigator and other personnel to assist with this case. She said the investigation moved along like a 'well-oiled machine' and that is why arrests came so quickly in this ongoing investigation.

Also speaking at last Thursday's press conference was Louis Franklin Sr., U.S. Attorney for the Middle District of Alabama.

"Our role is a supportive role at this point," Franklin said. "One thing that allows us to investigate crimes like these is to partner with local agencies."

He said he could not say as of last week if the Car City case would be a federal case or not, but he did confirm his office is involved to help if needed.

"Arson is a hard crime to solve...very hard," Whitworth said. "It makes you proud when you see these kind of things come together like this. I especially want to thank all the investigators that worked on this case. They did a great job, and we appreciate it very much."

Round and About

With Eria's Daughter

897-3611



Scripture: Answered Prayer for Deliverance from Adversaries [Psalm 54: 1-7]

Thinking of You! Praying for You.

All Government Officials, Karyn Kelley, Robert Reynolds, Michael Manning, Myron K. Duncan, Joshua A. Kelley, Vincent Smith, Mamie Belcher

February Birthdays / Anniversaries

Tom and Linda Hooks 2/13 W.A.
Regina Kelly Kyles 2/13
Sharon Williams 2/14
Tina Hill 2/14
Nick and Shai Nelson 2/14 W.A.
Velma Whitfield 2/15
Nick Nelson 2/15
Coretta A. Hammond 2/16 (in memory)
Ridgeway Berry 2/17
Ilaya O. Kelley 2/18
Alexis M. Tillis 2/18
Danielle Hardwick 2/18
Sage Kelley 2/19

Celebrating Black History Month Honoring Jack Johnson and James Johnson

• Jack Johnson (1878 - 1946) - an American boxer - won the heavy-weight championship of the world from Tommy Burns in 1908. He was the first Negro to hold this title. He successfully defended it five times before losing to Jess Willard in 1915. John Arthur Johnson was born in Galveston, Texas. He worked as a school janitor, dock hand, and stable boy before beginning his professional boxing career in 1899. He boxed until 1926. Later Johnson operated night clubs and worked for a carnival. - Lyall Smith
• James Weldon Johnson (1871 - 1938) was an American Negro poet. He became best known for *God's Trombones* (1927), a collection of ser-

mons in verse. His other books include a novel, *The Autobiography of an Ex-Colored Man* (1912); *An Anthology of American Negro Poetry*; and two collections of Negro Spirituals. Johnson served as a United States Consul in Venezuela and Nicaragua. He also served for 14 years as Secretary of the National Association for Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). Johnson was born in Jacksonville, Fla. - John O. Eidson

Question / Answer Section Q/A for the Week of 2/18/2021

True or False

Q: When Jesus calmed the storm, His disciples feared exceedingly.

A: True [Mark 4: 41]

Q: The message that the disciples preached was that Jesus was the Messiah.

A: False [Mark 6: 12]

Q: Blind Bartimaeus had to be encouraged to ask Jesus to heal him.

A: False [Mark 10: 47, 48]

Thought to Remember

Heaven or Hell, only a heartbeat away

Questions for the Week of 2/25/2021

Fill in the Blanks

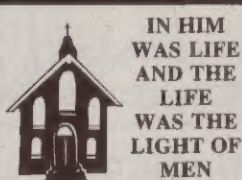
Q: Jesus called two sets of brothers to be His disciples: Simon and _____, James and _____.

Q: After Jesus cast them out, the devils went into a herd of _____.

Today is a good day! Be grateful.
Eria's Daughter, Sue



Church Directory



ABOUNDING GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH
Rockey Pearce, Pastor
Morn. Worship... 11:00 a.m.
Even. Service... 5:00 p.m.

ABUNDANT LIFE CHURCH SAMSON, Ala.
Richard Thors Sr., Pastor
Morn. Worship... 10:30 a.m.
Wed. Night Service 7:00 p.m.

ALBERTON BAPTIST CHURCH
Sunday School... 10:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship... 11:00 a.m.
Even. Worship... 6:00 p.m.
Wed. Prayer Service 7:00 p.m.

BASIN BAPTIST CHURCH
Sam Self, Pastor
Morn. Worship... 10:00 a.m.
Wed. Prayer Meet... 6:30 p.m.

BETHEL AME CHURCH
Deborah A. Butler, Pastor
Sunday School... 10:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship... 11:00 a.m.
Wed. Bible Study... 6:00 p.m.

BETHLEHEM BAPTIST CHURCH
Sunday School... 10:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship... 11:00 a.m.
Wed. Bible Class... 6:30 p.m.

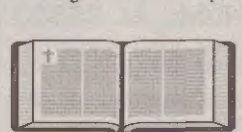
BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH
Greg Cotter, Pastor
Sunday School... 9:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship... 10:00 a.m.
Disciple Train... 5:30 p.m.
Even. Worship... 6:30 p.m.

BLUFF SPRINGS BAPTIST CHURCH
Tom Senn, Pastor
Sunday School... 10:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship... 11:00 a.m.
Even. Worship... 6:00 p.m.
Wed. Prayer Service 6:30 p.m.

BROOKLYN BAPTIST CHURCH
Robert Davis, Pastor
Sunday School... 10:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship... 11:00 a.m.
Even. Worship... 6:00 p.m.

CHESTNUT GROVE METHODIST CHURCH
Remondia Smith, Pastor
Church Service... 9:00 a.m.
2nd & 4th Sundays
Sunday School... 9:00 a.m.
1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays
Sunday School... 10:00 a.m.
2nd & 4th Sundays

CORNERSTONE BIBLE CHURCH
Larry Mills, Pastor
Sunday School... 10:00 a.m.
Sunday Worship... 11:00 a.m.
Wed. Night... 7:00 p.m.



COVENANT COMMUNITY CHURCH
Diana White, Pastor
Bible Study... 9:00 a.m.
Fellowship... 9:45 a.m.
Worship... 10:00 a.m.
Wed. Night (Youth Real Deal and Children's Activities)... 6:00 p.m.

DAMASCUS BAPTIST CHURCH
Steve Watson, Pastor
Sunday School... 9:45 a.m.
Morn. Worship... 11:00 a.m.
Even. Worship... 6:00 p.m.
Wed. Prayer Service 7:00 p.m.

DORCAS BAPTIST CHURCH
Dale Morgan, Pastor
Sunday School... 10:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship... 11:00 a.m.
Discipleship Training 5:00 p.m.
Even. Worship... 6:00 p.m.
Wed. Prayer Meet... 7:00 p.m.

EAON BAPTIST CHURCH
Mark Ward, Pastor
Sunday School... 10:30 a.m.
Morn. Worship... 11:00 a.m.
Wed. Bible Study... 6:15 p.m.

ELBA CHURCH OF CHRIST
Phillip Box, Minister
Bible Study... 9:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship... 10:00 a.m.
Even. Service... 5:00 p.m.
Wed. Bible Study... 6:30 p.m.

ELBA CHURCH OF GOD
David Noble, Pastor
Sunday School... 10:45 a.m.
Even. Worship... 5:00 p.m.

ELBA CHURCH OF GOD OF PROPHECY
H.L. Buckner, Pastor
Sunday School... 10:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship... 11:00 a.m.
Sunday Night... 6:00 p.m.
Thurs. Night... 7:00 p.m.

ELBA DELIVERANCE TABERNACLE
Allen Richards, Pastor
Sunday School... 10:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship... 11:00 a.m.
Even. Service... 5:00 p.m.
Wed. Service... 7:00 p.m.

ELBA 1st ASSEMBLY OF GOD
Dwight Johnson, Pastor
Sunday School... 9:30 a.m.
Morn. Worship... 10:30 a.m.
Even. Service... 6:00 p.m.
Wed. Service... 6:30 p.m.

ELBA FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
Tom Anderson, Int. Pastor
Sunday School... 9:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship... 10:00 a.m.
Even. Service... 5:00 p.m.
Wed. Service... 6:30 p.m.

ELBA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Steve Reneau, Pastor
Sunday School... 9:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship... 10:00 a.m.
Even. Services... 6:00 p.m.
Wed. Bible Study... 6:00 p.m.

ELBA ZION BAPTIST CHURCH
Lovell Martin, Pastor
Sunday School... 9:45 a.m.
Morn. Worship... 11:00 a.m.
Even. Service... 6:00 p.m.

EVANGELIST TEMPLE CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST
Timothy Williams, Pastor
Sunday School... 10:30 a.m.
Morn. Worship... 11:30 a.m.
Even. Service... 6:00 p.m.
Wed. Bible Study... 6:00 p.m.

FAIRVIEW BAPTIST CHURCH
Sunday School... 9:45 a.m.
Morn. Worship... 11:00 a.m.
Wed. Prayer Meet 7:30 p.m.

FAITH CHAPEL COMMUNITY CHURCH
Phillip Adcock, Pastor
Sunday Morning... 10:30 a.m.
Sunday Evening... 5:00 p.m.
Wed. Prayer Service 7:00 p.m.

1st ASSEMBLY OF GOD - KINSTON
Danny Bradshaw, Pastor
Sunday School... 9:45 a.m.
Morn. Worship... 11:00 a.m.
Wed. Bible Study... 7:00 p.m.

FRIENDSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH
Scott Donaldson, Pastor
Sunday School... 10:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship... 11:00 a.m.
Wed. Bible Study... 6:15 p.m.

FRIENDSHIP HOLINESS CHURCH
Edward E. Drake, Pastor
Sunday School... 10:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship... 11:00 a.m.
Sunday Evening... 5:00 p.m.

GODS POWER HOUSE EVANGELISTIC CHURCH
Overseers - Billy Berry
Sat. Service... 6:00 p.m.
Sun. Service... 10:00 a.m.
Even. Service... 4:00 p.m.

GRACE FELLOWSHIP
John Curtis Isaacs, Pastor
Sunday School... 10:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship... 11:00 a.m.
Even. Service... 5:00 p.m.
Wed. Service... 7:00 p.m.

GREATER NEW ZION BAPTIST CHURCH
Jeremie Turner, Sr. Pastor
Sunday School... 9:45 a.m.
Morn. Worship... 11:00 a.m.
Wed. Bible Study... 6:00 p.m.
Sunday Evening... 5:00 p.m.
Wed. Service... 5:00 p.m.

MT. CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH
Charles Jones, Pastor
Sunday School... 9:45 a.m.
Morn. Worship... 11:00 a.m.
Even. Service... 5:00 p.m.

MT. OLIVE BAPTIST CHURCH
Olav Strickland, Pastor
Sunday School... 10:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship... 11:00 a.m.
Even. Service... 5:00 p.m.
Wed. Prayer Meeting 7:00 p.m.

MT. VERNON ASSEMBLY OF GOD
Sunday School... 10:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship... 11:00 a.m.
Even. Service... 5:00 p.m.

INO ASSEMBLY OF GOD
Wesley D. Ard, Pastor
Sunday School... 10:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship... 11:00 a.m.
Even. Service... 6:00 p.m.
Wed. Prayer Meeting 6:30 p.m.

INO BAPTIST CHURCH
Garry Winstead, Pastor
Sunday School... 8:45 a.m.
Morn. Worship... 10:00 a.m.
Even. Service... 6:00 p.m.
Wed. Prayer Meeting 7:00 p.m.

JACK ASSEMBLY OF GOD
Matthew Morris, Pastor
Sunday School... 9:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship... 10:00 a.m.
Even. Service... 5:00 p.m.
Wed. Prayer Service 7:15 p.m.

KINSTON 1st BAPT CHURCH
Ben Posey, Pastor
Morn. Worship... 10:00 a.m.
Sunday School... 9:00 a.m.
Even. Service... 5:00 p.m.

LIVING WORD CHURCH
Derrick Stinson, Pastor
Saturday Service... 9:45 a.m.
Sunday Service... 10:30 a.m.
Even. Service... 6:00 p.m.
Wed. Youth Service 6:00 p.m.
Thurs. Service... 6:00 p.m.

LIBERTY CHURCH OF CHRIST
Greg Hanchey, Minister
Sunday School... 10:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship... 11:00 a.m.
Even. Service... 5:00 p.m.

LOVE'S WAY CHURCH
Charles Jones, Pastor
Sunday School... 10:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship... 11:00 a.m.
Sunday Evening... 6:00 p.m.
Wed. Service... 7:00 p.m.

MT. CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH
J. R. Parks, Pastor
Sunday School... 9:45 a.m.
Morn. Worship... 11:00 a.m.
1st & 3rd Sundays

MT. GILEAD BAPTIST CHURCH
Dewey Emfinger, Pastor
Sunday School... 10:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship... 11:00 a.m.
Even. Service... 5:00 p.m.
Wed. Service... 5:00 p.m.

MT. OLIVE BAPTIST CHURCH
Olav Strickland, Pastor
Sunday School... 10:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship... 11:00 a.m.
Even. Service... 5:00 p.m.
Wed. Prayer Meeting 7:00 p.m.

MT. VERNON ASSEMBLY OF GOD
Sunday School... 10:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship... 11:00 a.m.
Even. Service... 5:00 p.m.

Cathedral of the Holy Spirit NEW ABUNDANT LIFE DEL.
Linda Williams, Pastor
Sunday... 11:00 a.m.
Wed. Even... 7:30 p.m.

NEW JERUSALEM CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST - ENTERPRISE
W. K. Ellison, Pastor
Morning Worship... 9:00 a.m.
Evening Worship... 6:00 p.m.
Tuesday Evening... 7:00 p.m.
Friday Evening... 7:00 p.m.

NEWBRIA BAPTIST CHURCH
Will Jordan, Pastor
Sunday School... 9:45 a.m.
Morn. Worship... 11:00 a.m.
Disciple Train... 5:00 p.m.
Evening Worship... 6:00 p.m.
Wed. Night Service 7:00 p.m.

NEW BROCKTON METHODIST CHURCH
Roy L. Turner, Pastor
Sunday School... 10:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship... 11:00 a.m.
Even. Worship... 5:00 p.m.
Wed. Service... 6:30 p.m.

NEW CHAPEL BAPTIST CHURCH
Terry Godwin, Pastor
Sunday School... 9:45 a.m.
Morn. Worship... 11:00 a.m.
Bible Study... 5:00 p.m.
Even. Worship... 6:00 p.m.
Wed. Prayer Meet... 6:00 p.m.

NEW EBENEZER BAPTIST CHURCH
Randall Pearson, Pastor
Sunday School... 9:45 a.m.
Morn. Worship... 11:00 a.m.
Even. Worship... 6:00 p.m.
Wed. Prayer Meet... 6:00 p.m.

NEW GLORIOUS COGIC
James Starks Jr., Pastor
Sunday School... 9:45 a.m.
Morn. Worship... 11:00 a.m.
Even. Worship... 6:00 p.m.
Bib Stud Wed... 6:00 p.m.

NEW HAVEN BAPTIST CHURCH
Sunday School... 9:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship... 10:00 a.m.
Even. Worship... 6:00 p.m.
Wed. Prayer Meet... 6:30 p.m.

NEW HAVEN ASSEMBLY OF GOD CHURCH
Brad Sasser, Pastor
Sunday School... 10:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship... 11:00 a.m.
Wed. Even. Service 6:30 p.m.

NEW HOPE BAPT CHURCH
Lanny Shepard, Pastor
Sunday School... 9:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship... 10:00 a.m.
Even. Service... 5:00 p.m.
Wed. Prayer Service 6:30 p.m.

NEW PHILADELPHIA CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST
Lorearl Flowers, Minister
Sunday School... 9:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship... 11:00 a.m.
2nd & 4th Sundays

OAK GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH
Julian Mitchell, Pastor
1st & 4th Sun. Morn.
Sunday School... 10:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship... 11:00 a.m.

OLD TABERNACLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Lee Jones, Pastor
Sunday School... 10:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship... 11:00 a.m.

PERDUE ASSEMBLY OF GOD
Sunday School... 9:45 a.m.
Morn. Worship... 11:00 a.m.
Even. Worship... 6:00 p.m.
Wed. Service... 7:00 p.m.

PINEY GROVE ASSEMBLY OF GOD - SAMSON
Terry McCrummen, Pastor
Sunday School... 9:45 a.m.
Morn. Worship... 11:00 a.m.
Evening Worship... 6:00 p.m.
Wed. Worship... 7:00 p.m.

PRAYSE & GLORY WORSHIP CENTER
Roy L. Turner, Pastor
Sunday School... 10:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship... 11:00 a.m.
Even. Worship... 5:00 p.m.
Wed. Service... 6:30 p.m.

ROCKY HEAD M.B. CHURCH
A. R. Williams, Pastor
Sunday School... 9:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship... 10:30 a.m.
Wed. Bible Study... 6:00 p.m.
2nd & 4th Sundays

ROTON BAPTIST CHURCH
Sunday School... 9:45 a.m.
Morn. Worship... 11:00 a.m.
Even. Service... 6:00 p.m.
Wed. Prayer Meet... 6:00 p.m.

SHADY GROVE AME
James Boots, Pastor
Sunday School... 10:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship... 11:00 a.m.
Praise Service Mon 5:00 p.m.
Wed. Bible Study... 6:00 p.m.

SHILOH BAPTIST CHURCH
Sunday School... 9:45 a.m.
Morn. Worship... 11:00 a.m.
Even. Service... 5:00 p.m.
Wed. Prayer Meet... 6:30 p.m.

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST
Pastor Bishop E.H. Hill
Sunday School... 10:00 a.m.
Even. Service... 7:00 p.m.
Youth Ser. Mon... 7:00 p.m.
Wed Bible Class... 7:00 p.m.
Fri Missionary Ser. 7:00 p.m.

THE WAY OF HOLINESS CHURCH, Elba
Max Reed, Minister
Sunday School... 10:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship... 11:30 a.m.
Tuesday Bible Class 7:00 p.m.

TRINITY BAPTIST CHURCH
C.P. Davis, Pastor
Sunday School... 9:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship... 10:00 a.m.
Even. Service... 5:00 p.m.
Wed. Night Service 6:00 p.m.

VANDERBILT HOLINESS CHURCH
Donald Mills, Pastor
Sunday School... 10:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship... 11:00 a.m.
Even. Service... 5:00 p.m.
Wed. Night Service 6:00 p.m.

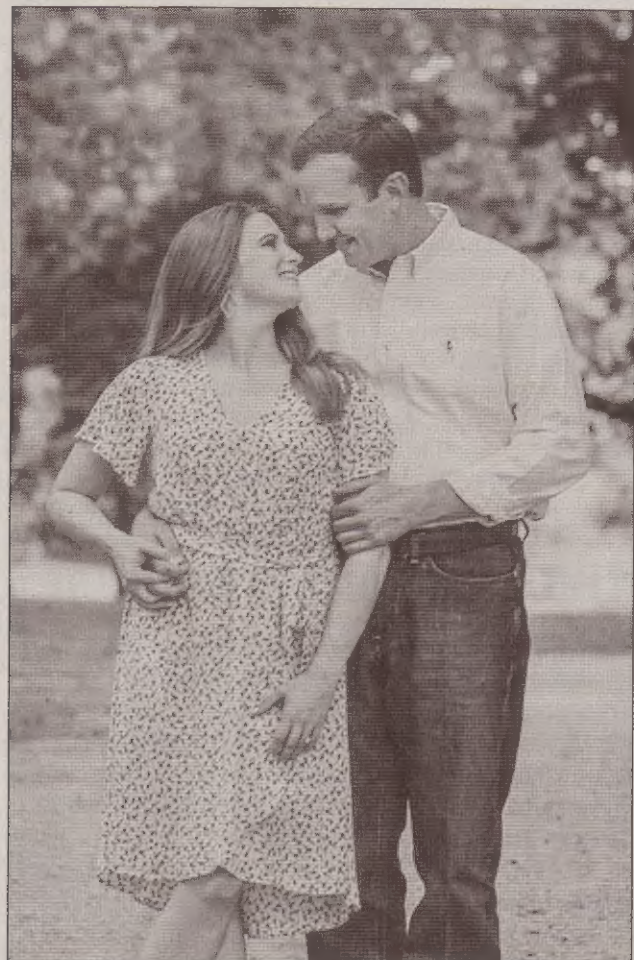
VICTORIA BAPTIST CHURCH
Shayne Allen, Pastor
Sunday School... 9:45 a.m.
Morn. Worship... 11:00 a.m.
Even. Service... 5:45 p.m.
Wed. Worship... 7:00 p.m.

VICTORY TABERNACLE
Ruby Lawson, Pastor
Morn. Worship... 10:30 a.m.
Even. Service... 5:00 p.m.
Wed. Prayer Meet... 7:00 p.m.

WESTSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH
Ken Wilson, Pastor
Sunday School... 9:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship... 10:00 a.m.
Even. Service... 6:00 p.m.
Wed. Prayer Meet... 6:30 p.m.

WHITEWATER BAPTIST CHURCH
Tommy Green, Pastor
Sunday School... 10:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship... 11:00 a.m.
Even. Service... 6:00 p.m.
Wed. Prayer Meet

LIFESTYLES



Miss Mary Annabelle Stokes and
Mr. Harrison Alexander Lang

Stokes-Lang nuptials planned for April 10th in Madison, Mississippi

It is with great pride that Lt. Col. (Ret.) and Mrs. John Daniel Stokes of Elba, Alabama, and Mr. and Mrs. Tracy Lang of Brandon, Mississippi announce the upcoming wedding of their children, Mary Annabelle Stokes and Harrison Alexander Lang.

Annabelle is the granddaughter of the late Col. and Mrs. Charlie Mack Stokes Sr. and the late Dr. and Mrs. Lowell E. Wilson, both of Auburn, Alabama.

She is a graduate of Elba High School, received a Bachelor of Science degree in agricultural communications from Auburn University in 2018, and a Master of Science in agricultural and extension education from Mississippi State University in 2020. She is currently employed by Louisiana State University where she is a communications coordinator.

Harrison is the grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Homer Lang of Pearl, Mississippi; Mr. and Mrs. Garner Shannon Jr. of Belzoni, Mississippi; and Mr. and Mrs. Gene Layton of Lithia, Florida.

He is a graduate of Brandon High School and received a Bachelor of Science degree in agricultural information sciences from Mississippi State University. He is currently employed by Bunge North America where he is an export logistics manager.

Harrison and Annabelle will become Mr. and Mrs. Lang on April 10, 2021 before friends and family at Bridlewood of Madison in Madison, Mississippi.

COVID-19 testing set for Tuesdays in March at Coffee County Health Department in Enterprise

The Southeastern Public Health District continues to offer COVID-19 testing in Enterprise and Dothan for patients who meet the testing criteria and while supplies are available.

Due to limited staffing in this district, testing is only being provided in Coffee and Houston counties at this time. No COVID-19 retesting will be done. Testing is scheduled in Enterprise as follows:

Coffee County Health Department
2841 Neal Metcalf Road, Enterprise
Tuesdays from 8:30 until 10:30 a.m.

March 2, March 9, March 16, March 23, and March 30

Symptoms of COVID-19 consist of either cough or shortness of breath (difficulty breathing) or at least two of the following: fever, chills, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache, vomiting, diarrhea, sore throat, fatigue, congestion or runny nose, and new loss of taste or smell.

Testing criteria are as follows:

- Persons with symptoms
- Healthcare facility workers, workers in congregate living settings, and first responders with symptoms
- Persons without symptoms who have underlying medical conditions or disability placing them at a higher risk of complications or screening of other asymptomatic individuals based on a case-by-case review and approval by the state health department or local health jurisdiction.

Retirement of Kathy Mularz approved by board members

by Linda Hodge, Editor

The Elba Board of Education met Tuesday evening, Feb. 16, for the board's monthly meeting, and members moved quickly through the meeting's agenda.

Superintendent Chris Moseley noted the school system had received word that a second set of Cares Act ESSER [Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief] money would be coming to the schools. As previously, this is due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Moseley said the system would be receiving \$869,421 in this second round of distributions. As for now, he said school officials are "waiting on what and how it can be spent" before making any further decisions for that funding.

In personnel news, the superintendent said long-

time employee Kathy Mularz had turned in a letter for retirement after 34 years of service to Elba City Schools. She currently holds the technology coordinator title for the school system.

Moseley said her retirement would be effective July 1, 2021. Board members voted to accept the letter of retirement from Mularz.

With Mularz presenting her retirement letter early, Moseley said this would allow the school system to begin advertising and searching for a technology coordinator replacement. Also, he said if someone is hired early enough, it could allow for some collaboration between Mularz and her replacement.

Moseley said Mularz had served in several different roles for Elba City Schools throughout her 34-year career, and he said he wanted to publicly thank her for her many years of service. Board members echoed that sentiment.



The construction of this home at 537 Adkinson Street in Elba was celebrated Sunday, Feb. 21, by Habitat for Humanity of Coffee County, Alabama. The construction faced many challenges due to COVID-19 and multiple weather delays, but despite it all, the keys were handed over to Tawanna Thomas and her children - Kentana and Kendre - on Sunday.

HABITAT

-- Continued from Page ONE --



Coffee County Habitat for Humanity volunteer Candace Vaughan presented a Bible to Tawanna Thomas during the dedication ceremony held Sunday afternoon in Elba by Habitat for Humanity of Coffee County. Vaughan was one of the many volunteers that lent a helping hand and played a vital role in completing the construction of the home for Thomas and her children.

it was soon decided that it would be best to move forward as a cooperative with the county, but Mr. Morrow was all in.

"His role kept growing, and he became a member of the board," Stephens said. "I don't have enough time today to talk about Paul Morrow. He was a great friend and mentor."

Stephens said Morrow donated his mother's home in Elba to Habitat for Humanity of Coffee County. "We sold the house, and the money from that house has gone into about three different houses," Stephens said.

He said there would be a plaque placed at Ms.

Thomas' home noting that it had been dedicated in memory of Paul Morrow.

During the ceremony, Thomas also was presented the keys to her home, as well as, a Bible to keep in the home as a reminder of the importance of the Lord in her family's daily walk.

Some special volunteers recognized Sunday during the ceremony included: Sam Curtis, Bob Turner, Eugene Goolsby, Terry Cauthen, Tammy Sheldon, Shana Demby, Mark and Candace Vaughan, Price Tuley, Charles Welch, and Cindy Crawford; along with anyone else who helped with the construction of this new Habitat home.



Tawanna Thomas and her children, Kentana and Kendre, pose for a photo with members of the Paul Morrow family. Ms. Thomas' new home was dedicated by Coffee County Habitat for Humanity in memory of Paul Morrow. He gave his mother's home to the local Habitat chapter to sell, and those proceeds have helped with the construction of about three different homes by Coffee County Habitat for Humanity, including the Thomas home. Morrow was said to have been a great Habitat for Humanity partner.

Coffee County Schools superintendent provides weekly COVID-19 update, says case numbers continue to decline

Coffee County Schools Superintendent Kevin Killingsworth had better news to report last Wednesday, Feb. 17, with his weekly COVID-19 update.

"This week Coffee County Schools have only six new cases of COVID-19 to report," Killingsworth said. "This is a significant drop since last week."

According to the Feb. 17th report, Zion Chapel School had three student cases, New Brockton Elementary School had one student case, New Brockton High School had one student case, and Kinston School had one student case.

"Our total COVID-19 cases since start of school on August 10 now stands

at 193," Killingsworth said. "Numbers in quarantine are also rapidly declining."

He said the system still did not have a date set for mass vaccinations of its employees; however, he confirmed it was not because of a lack of planning or attempting to gain the vaccine from ADPH.

"Our partners are still diligently trying to work through this issue," Killingsworth said. "As we approach the last quarter of this school year, I want

to once again thank the employees of the Coffee County School System for their dedication and perseverance during this school year. In my almost 30 years in education, I cannot remember a time in which so many had to sacrifice so much in order for our schools to run effectively and safely."

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AUCTION SITE:
Intersection of Walton County Hwy. 147 and US HWY 331 in Paxton, Florida (147 County Road 147 Laurel Hill 32527)

DIRECTIONS FROM MONTGOMERY, AL:
Travel Highway 331 S. to Paxton, FL, turn right on County Highway 147 and watch for signs.

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HELP WANTED

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Coffee County Maintenance Department
Maintenance Technician for Coffee County

Duties and responsibilities include, but are not limited to: perform a variety of skilled installations, repairs, and maintenance in the following areas. Plumbing, electrical, HVAC, painting, carpentry, sheetrock, janitorial, grounds maintenance, and roofing. Work ranges from small repairs to complete remodeling. Experience: Minimum one-year experience required. Qualifications: Valid Driver's License. Fringe Benefits: Paid Vacation, Sick Leave, Health Insurance, Holidays, and State Retirement. Salary: Based on experience. Closing Date: March 4, 2021.

Please apply at www.coffeecounty.us.

Coffee County is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

JOB OPENING

Coffee County Highway Department
Equipment Operator

Duties and responsibilities include, but are not limited to, operate medium and heavy equipment, trucks, and other vehicles to construct, maintain, and improve roads and drainage systems. Perform additional tasks as assigned. Experience preferred. Must possess a valid Commercial Driver's License (CDL). Fringe benefits include paid vacation, sick leave, health insurance, holidays and State retirement. Starting wage is dependent upon experience. Open until position is filled.

Please apply at www.coffeecounty.us.

Coffee County is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

THE CITY OF ENTERPRISE

The City of Enterprise, Alabama is accepting applications for the position of **City Engineer/Public Works Director**. The City Engineer/Director of Public Works generally oversees and directs engineering and public works related services of the City, including, building code applications and enforcement, inspections, public works and infrastructure coordination, and financial issues related to the department, along with supervision of the staff who work in public works and engineering services.**Position requires** a combination of training and experience equivalent to: Graduation from an accredited college or university with a bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering as well as at least five years of civil engineering experience concentrating in public infrastructure systems, preferably in a municipal, county or state agency setting. Must possess a current license as a professional engineer in the State of Alabama and have been licensed for at least five years. Ability to work non-standard hours such as nights, holidays and weekends. Applicants must be bonded or have the ability to become bonded. Must possess a valid driver's license. For more information regarding the position and qualifications, interested candidates are encouraged to visit our website: www.enterpriseal.gov. Position will remain open until filled. The City of Enterprise is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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IN THE PROBATE COURT OF COFFEE COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF GEORGE WASHINGTON HAMILTON, DECEASED

CASE NO: PC-21-008

Letters of Administration of said deceased having been granted to the undersigned on the 9th day of February, 2021, by the Hon. Jodee Thompson, Judge of the Probate Court of Coffee County, notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present the same within time allowed by law or the same will be barred. /s/ Thomas A. Blackstock, Jr.

Thomas A. Blackstock, Jr. Attorney for Amanda Grace, Personal Representative 2/18,25&3/4-pd.

IN THE PROBATE COURT FOR COFFEE COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF J.C. WARD Deceased

Case No. PC 2021-013

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Letters Testamentary of said

deceased having been granted to Betty Lucille Ward, as Executrix of the Estate of J.C. Ward, deceased, on the 11th day of February, 2021, by Jodee R. Thompson, Probate Judge of Coffee County, Alabama, notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against said Estate are hereby required to present same within the time allowed by law or the same will be barred. Richard (Cracker) Waldrop P.O. Box 310027 Enterprise, AL 36331 Phone: 334-393-2288 Attorney for Estate of J.C. Ward, Deceased 2/18,25&3/4-paid

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Sealed bids for the construction of **RECREATIONAL BUILDING DEMOLITION AND COLUMN REPAIR** in Elba, Alabama will be received by the City of Elba in the meeting room at the City Hall until **1:00 p.m., Wednesday, March 17, 2021**, and then at said location publicly opened and read aloud.

The work under the Base Bid generally consists of reinforcement of a structural column and internal building demolition and removal of the flooring of the gym area.

The information for Bidders, Form of Bid, Form of

Contract, Plans, Specifications, and form of Bid Bond, Performance and Payment Bond, and other Contract Documents may be examined at the City Hall of Elba at 200 Buford Street; Elba, Alabama 36323 and at the office of Southern Engineering Solutions, Inc., 201 East Troy Street, Andalusia, Alabama, 36420.

To be eligible for consideration, bids must be submitted on complete proposals made available by the Owner. Complete digital project bidding documents are available upon an on-line payment of a non-refundable fee of \$40.00 by visiting our website - www.southernengineeringsolutions.com and clicking the "Currently Bidding" link at the top of the page. A free one-time membership registration with Quest CDN will be required. Please contact questcdn.com at 952-233-1632 or info@questcdn.com if you require assistance in registration, downloading, or working with this digital project information. Optional complete paper bid documents are available at Southern Engineering Solutions, Inc.; P.O. Box 610; 201 East Troy Street; Andalusia, Alabama 36420, upon payment of a refundable (if plans are returned in reusable condition within 10 days of bid opening)

ing) deposit of \$80.00. Bid documents will be mailed only upon receipt of deposit. If paper option is chosen, checks shall be made payable to Southern Engineering Solutions, Inc. No paper bid documents will be distributed later than 48 hours prior to the scheduled opening of bids. The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any informalities. Each bidder must submit with his bid, security in the amount, form, and subject to the conditions provided in the Information for Bidders. The successful bidder will be required to submit a 100% performance bond and a 50% payment bond. All bidders must comply with the requirements of the Contractor's Licensing Law of the State of Alabama and be certified for the type of work for which a proposal is submitted. The submission of the Bidders' current State of Alabama license number will be required before his/her bid will be received or considered. No bidder may withdraw his bid within 30 days after the actual date of the opening thereof. Tom Maddox Mayor City of Elba 2/25-chg.

SPORTS and MORE



Coach Mickey McCollough was joined last Saturday, Feb. 20, by several members of his family at the Stanhope Elmore High School baseball field, Millbrook, Ala., where he was honored in a special ceremony as the school's first baseball coach in 1970. Above, the McCollough family stands around the monument erected outside the press box at the field in honor of Coach McCollough. Those pictured include (from left): Maggie McCollough, Audrey McCollough, Coach Mickey McCollough, Lance McCollough, Mike McCollough, Sandy Sullivan, Ben McCollough and Laine McCollough. Serving as the school's first baseball coach from 1970-1973

Mickey McCollough honored with monument at Stanhope Elmore High School baseball field

Retired Elba educator, coach, and principal Mickey McCollough received special recognition last weekend at Stanhope Elmore High School in Millbrook, Alabama. McCollough was the first baseball coach at Stanhope Elmore from 1970-1973, and he was honored during "Alumni Weekend" last Saturday, Feb. 20, during a ceremony held between the school's junior varsity and varsity baseball games. He was joined by several members of his family for this special recognition. Last September, a monument was erected outside of the press box of Stanhope Elmore's Furlow Field. That monument was officially dedicated last Saturday, and Coach McCollough was honored to be able to attend the special ceremony with members of his family. McCollough's recognition was the highlight of the day's activities. The monument reads, "Dedicated to Coach Mickey McCollough, Stanhope Elmore's first baseball coach, whose hard work and winning ways was instilled in his athletes for life" - signed Members of the 1970-1971 SEHS First Baseball Team. Mickey McCollough resides in his hometown of Elba, Alabama. His children are Mike McCollough of Dothan, Lance McCollough of Opp, and Sandy (McCollough) Sullivan of Elba. He also enjoys his six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.



Zion Chapel senior Hunter Wambles (center) signed an intent letter last Friday, Feb. 19, to continue his football career at Millsaps College in Jackson, Mississippi. Joining Hunter for the signing ceremony was his parents, Toby and Misty Wambles.

Zion Chapel's Hunter Wambles commits to play football at Millsaps College in Mississippi

Zion Chapel High School held a signing ceremony Friday, Feb. 19, for senior, Hunter Wambles.

Wambles committed to play football for Millsaps College in Jackson, Miss. He also received an academic scholarship to Millsaps College.

Wambles had offers from Faulkner University, McPherson College and a few other colleges and universities.

He said he chose this college over the others because of the academic programs offered, the class sizes, the coaching staff and their athletic program.

Wambles has played football since age six. He played on both offense and defense, but his favorite position is center because he says, "I am in the middle of the action."

Wambles hopes to play center or guard at Millsaps but is willing to play wherever needed. He says he is excited for the next chapter of his football career to begin.



Hunter Wambles officially accepted an offer from Millsaps College last Friday, Feb. 19, to play football for the Majors as he signed a commitment letter with the college.

Elba Parks and Recreation has extended the deadline to register for the upcoming youth baseball/softball season to Monday, March 1st! Call the Rec Dept. at (334) 897-6833 and register your son/daughter today!!

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Shelby



THE ELBA PARKS AND RECREATION'S 5/6 YEAR OLD BASKETBALL TEAM recently completed its 2021 season. Many of these youngsters were playing the game competitively for the first time. They split into two teams each game and played one another at the Elba Elementary School gym. Elba Parks and Recreation director Greg Hanchey said it was a great opportunity for the "little guys" to learn about the sport while also having fun. Those pictured above include: (kneeling, l to r) Colton Dye, Jace Poole, La'Darius Lockett, A.J. Harrelson, and Coach Jason Mitchell; (standing, l to r) Kip Brunson, Jack Burk, Ayden Foster, Antonio Hill, and Jacen Mitchell. Elba Parks and Recreation will be hosting a District Basketball Tournament this weekend at Elba High School. Following the conclusion of this event, the 10U Boys team, and 12U boys and girls rec teams will be featured in the paper.

Scale Back Alabama kicks off 2021 program with exciting changes

The beginning of a new year is a perfect time to commit or re-commit to a healthier lifestyle and develop positive habits along the way. Scale Back Alabama, the state's largest wellness program, begins this year on March 1 with some new and exciting changes.

This year, Scale Back Alabama will be an entirely virtual program. Participants will register online and choose one to three goals to work on throughout the 10-week program. Each week, participants will receive a challenge and a health tip that will encourage them to reach their goal(s). Weight loss is now optional, and participants will select their own wellness goals.

It is easy to register an individual participant. Two-person teams are no longer required.

Visit scalebackalabama.com/member/register.

To get started, participants will answer a few questions

that will help them choose the best goals for them.

By March 1, participants will receive an email from Scale Back Alabama with instructions on how to access their personalized user dashboard and set wellness goals for the program.

Registration closes on February 28.

Important: Public weigh-in sites are no longer available. Some workplaces or organizations may host private sites if they can do so safely. Weigh-ins and outs are no longer required to participate in the program.

Prizes

All prizes will be on an individual basis; there will be no team prizes.

At the end of each week, participants will indicate on their user dashboard if they did or did not complete that week's challenge. Participants that did complete the challenge on any given week will be entered into

a drawing for that week's prize.

Each week, participants will indicate on their user dashboard if they did or did not meet their pre-set goal(s) that week. For every week that participants meet at least one of their goals, their name will go into a prize drawing to be held at the end of the program.

All prizes will be in the form of an Amazon e-gift card.

Scale Back Alabama is a public awareness program hosted by the Alabama Hospital Association and the Alabama Department of Public Health, with generous support from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Alabama.

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